



All the rain this summer was great for visitation. There was so much activity, we found this curious kitten investigating the Percy & Small shipyard!

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MAINE MARITIME MUSEUM
243 Washington Street, Bath, Maine 04530
MaineMaritimeMuseum.org

Progress to Make



by Christopher Timm
Executive Director

Photo credit: Tim Greenway

In our last issue, I shared that this year the museum would reenergize around our mission, vision, and values. To that end, over the course of the last few months we have engaged in a collaborative and inclusive conversation, engaging staff, trustees, and volunteers to identify the ways we can better serve our community. I also asked you, our loyal *Rhumb Line* readers, to share what stories are meaningful or inspiring—how can we better welcome you aboard?

Clear areas of consensus emerged from these conversations. Our desire to be an inclusive museum—one that welcomes all and shares stories that matter. Our need to directly engage families and multigenerational groups, to invite in future generations. Our belief that we are here to educate; to connect maritime past, present, and future; and to be a forum for community dialogue. Our recognition that, as an interdisciplinary museum, we embrace the rich diversity of maritime topics. And our geographic compass—we are rooted in Maine and we strive to tell big, meaningful stories of global relevance.

After sustained and meaningful discussions, I'm pleased to share the updated statements that were passed unanimously by our Board of Trustees in September:

Our Mission: Maine Maritime Museum's mission is to connect people to the past, present, and future of Maine's waterways and their global reach.

Our Vision: Our vision is to be a leading cultural institution and community pillar. As active stewards and educators of history and culture, of our historic site, and of our collections, we strive to inspire an ever-growing audience to experience the local, regional, and global stories of Maine.

Our Values: We value progress—removing barriers to access, broadening our audience, building community, expanding scholarship, and innovating our stories and storytelling methods. We value respect—sustaining the people, places, and resources in our care, prioritizing equity in our work, and creating a supportive environment that empowers individuals to thrive.

Museums must revisit their mission periodically to ensure they are framed in a way that meets the current and future needs of our community. In this case, the evolution is not a seismic shift but a thoughtful acknowledgement of the museum's past, our recent successes, and new responsibilities.



This photograph of three individuals enjoying a canoe ride will be featured in *Upta Camp*, an upcoming exhibition further investigating our connection to Maine's waterways. Learn more on Page 9.

In his remarks opening the museum's first permanent location in 1964—with exhibits telling our core stories through paintings and artifacts traded across the world—our first president William Mussenden shared the following reminder, worth revisiting:

"This museum is not a memorial to an industry that is dead, nor is it being dedicated as a reminder of the good old days. What you will see here is merely the evidence of that which has happened in a community, where progress is still being made."

Connecting the past, present, and future of maritime Maine, and how this story is one of global relevance, has long been a common thread in our history. It is worth renewing our commitment to this purpose, as we identify new programs and exhibits that reveal maritime Maine to be a place where progress has been, and still is being, made.

Upcoming Exhibits

Lost and Found: Sounds of the Maine Coast by Dianne Ballon

February 9 – November 30, 2024

A collaboration between Dianne Ballon and the museum that investigates the significant role of sound in maritime environments. The exhibition will encourage visitors to think critically about the soundscapes they encounter along Maine's coast and how they contribute to them.

Upta Camp

April 5, 2024 – April 30, 2025

Maine camps are as much a tradition as they are a place; the embodiment of leisure and sport. But most importantly, Maine camps are an immense cultural resource deeply intertwined with the state's natural resources. This exhibition will investigate the rise of Maine's sporting and leisure camp tradition and how the state's inland waterways have contributed to its popularity.



Maine
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Rhumb Line

A line on the earth's surface which intersects all meridians and parallels of latitude at the same angle. A line of constant course is a rhumb line.

Around the Museum



Midcoast-based artist Eric Darling is pioneering a new frontier of upcycled art using the worn and brightly colored pot warp—or rope—castoff by local lobstermen. Many of the pieces in our current exhibit *Eric Darling: Drift Rope Project* are on public display for the first time.



This year's Pints on the Pier narrowly avoided a torrential downpour, and we couldn't have asked for a better crowd. Here, Portland musician Darksoft plays for the crowd of over 450! In the background, the *Wyoming* flags are flying again, thanks to Reed & Reed generously donating their labor on the repair.



Another summer with our Kennebec Explorers! Next year, we'll also be offering new camps over February and April school vacation weeks; learn more by subscribing to *The Lookout*, our biweekly e-newsletter.



What happens when you create an exhibit space as popular and interactive as the EcoLab? More people want to participate! As such, a new volunteer role was created to support the increased traffic: meet a few of our EcoLab attendants! Left to right: Jeanne Smith, Diane Deans, Susan Kent, and Sarah Wheeler. Not pictured: Marilyn Bedford, Meredith McGuire, and Joan Knight.



Have you been to the Watercraft Restoration Center yet? This new demonstration area on the ground floor of the Boatshop is now open to the public, weather permitting.

Spotlight: Special Events



Teresa Gandler is our Special Events Manager. Teresa recently returned after pursuing other opportunities, and we couldn't be happier to have her back at the helm! We caught up with Teresa recently to learn more about event rentals at the museum.

What makes people interested in Maine Maritime Museum as a venue?

First, the location is a big draw. We're central to Portland, Rockland, and even Augusta and Lewiston. Then Bath also has shuttle services and hotels, which is really convenient.

As a museum, we draw people that are interested in Maine history and culture. As a facility, we have a lot of different spaces. For example, we had a bride who worked as a landscape architect. And that one really stands out in my mind because she ended up getting married in front of the boulders under the Mould Loft, heading down towards the Blacksmith Shop. In my experience, no one had ever done that, and I was honestly a bit skeptical. But it was actually fantastic and super unique! I really enjoy seeing the property through the eyes of others.

In addition to all the different spaces we offer, stopping by schooner *Mary E* for a photo is a must, and chartering the *Merrymeeting* for a river cruise is really special to the museum.



Our wedding program began in 2013 with just one service and has grown to 18 weddings in our busiest year! Pictured here, *Mary E* makes for a gorgeous backdrop.

Photo credit: Jessica Wisser at Fidelio Photography

How has Maine Maritime Museum changed since you first started?

To come back here after being away for a year and just seeing how great the landscape looks with all the plants, it's such a huge change. And you know, the Emery Great Lawn is so nice for events. Before First Impressions, [a complete redevelopment of the front entrance and south side of the museum's campus completed in 2021,] there were no lights in the parking lots, if you can believe it! That's a huge improvement.

We hear you're a little bit of a plant nerd?

Yes. So, the native plants here are amazing. Some of my favorites are obviously the sweet fern, which I talk about all the time. We have a ton of it. It loves the sunshine, and when it rains or when it's misty, its scent really comes out. Most couples are hoping for sunshine on their big day, but during the last rainy wedding, the smell was just amazing.



Thanks to Lexi and Matt Photography for this shot of the Emery Great Lawn, one of our newer spaces.

I also noticed we have cardinal flower, which is endangered. And the little medicinal garden in the shipyard that our volunteer Garden Crew takes care of is coming along.

So, how did you get into special events?

At the Institute of Art in Chicago, I got a degree in fine art. I did ceramics, fiber, and painting. Then I went to Tufts University, where I received a certificate in museum studies and did a year-long curatorial fellowship. But it turns out that was the most boring job I ever had in my life, right? I quickly learned that I needed to be working with the public. I had managed the volunteer program and visitor services at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, and I also worked in visitor services for the National Park Service. So, I think once I figured out that I was a front-facing person, that led me to knowing this is where I belonged.

Maine Maritime Museum an incredible place to celebrate all of life's many milestones, whether it's a wedding, celebration of life, baby shower, bar or bat mitzvah, fundraiser, or something in between. To read more about renting our space or to contact Teresa, head over to our website, mainemaritimemuseum.org/weddings.

Boatbuilding Corner



by Kurt Spiridakis
Director of Boatbuilding

Meet Dan Shea!

Dan Shea is our new boatbuilding educator and brings to the Boatshop a lifetime of appreciation for wooden boats and their ability to inspire young people. Dan has been building boats for over 50 years, and has designed, built, restored, and maintained hundreds of wooden and wood-composite vessels, many over 60'. For the last 20 years, Dan ran a business in Bristol, Rhode Island, maintaining and restoring many Herreshoff-designed sailboats, to the same standards of the Herreshoff Manufacturing Company. Dan also lofted and built the only H-20 in existence, based on a half model carved by Nathaniel Herreshoff. *Editor's Note: for those of us outside of the boatbuilding world, he's extremely knowledgeable.*

Dan Shea, Boatbuilding Educator

In addition, Dan has extensive experience working with young people in boatshops. He hired and trained graduates of the two-year International Yacht Restoration School in Newport, RI, where he is still a member of the advisory board. Dan has also led dory building classes for high school students as part of a workforce development pre-employment pathway.

Most importantly, Dan has a gentle and humble demeanor that belies his decades of expertise as a boatbuilder, project manager, teacher, and craftsman. The Boatshop and museum as a whole are quite lucky that Dan has landed in Bath, and we are excited to see what the future brings!

Discovery Boatbuilding

Here's a quick profile of our Discovery Boatbuilding program and projects scheduled for this year. Discovery Boatbuilding is our woodworking and boatbuilding curriculum for area middle and high school students. Each class of up to 15 students comes to the Boatshop one day per week for the entirety of the school year to learn traditional boatbuilding, wood joinery and wood technology, craftsmanship, and self-discovery.

South Bristol School: This year marks the 28th consecutive year of boatbuilding at the museum for South Bristol. Twelve students will build two Yankee Tender skiffs.

Woolwich Central School: This is the 15th year of the program, and 12 students will build two Yankee Tender skiffs, then curate an exhibit in the Kramer Gallery about their experiences, set to open May 2024.

West Bath School: This is the 9th year of our collaboration, and 12 students will build two Monhegan Island skiffs.

Blacksmith Shop

Checking in on our Blacksmith Shop, here are a few updates we're excited about:

- Boatshop volunteers are building lockers in the Blacksmith Shop to better support our teaching efforts there. These lockers will safely store tools and materials for volunteers, educators, and summer programming.
- Blacksmith Beth Holmberg will be making stanchion bands for our friends at Maine's First Ship. These bands will reinforce the gun stanchions on the *Virginia*. Beth will be using 17th century-appropriate wrought iron for the job, which rusts less than mild steel, making it the ideal metal for blacksmith work—this is the same material used on Percy and Small vessels. Stop by on Wednesdays, weather permitting, to see Beth in action!



Dan Shea at work with students from Mr. Ararat on the beginning phases of their Gatchell Skiff.

Georgetown Central School: This is our 6th year working with Georgetown, and eight students will build two Monhegan Island skiffs.

Curious about what happens to these skiffs? The schools keep one to auction as a fundraiser, and the museum keeps one to sell! Keep an eye out in mid-June for more information.

TREK School: Located in Brunswick, this is the second year of collaboration, and five students will build our first reproduction of the "Pemaquid Punt," a 9' rowboat used as a tender by lobstermen in the 1940s in the New Harbor/Pemaquid area.

Mt. Ararat High School: This past summer, students began building our first reproduction of the "Gatchell Skiff," a skiff tender in the museum's collection built by lobsterman Everett Gatchell in 1921. Students will finish fitting out the hull during the '24 school year, with help from Boatshop staff, primarily on site at Mt. Ararat High school.

Education Corner



by Sarah Timm
Director of Education

Maine Maritime Museum continues to grow as we expand the stories we feature in our galleries, sourced from our collection and inspired by the world around us. The museum's new mission is to connect audiences to Maine's waterways past, present, and future and their global reach. The scope of this mission is both essential and overwhelming. How can one educator teach, well, *everything*? Our education team has strategically evolved to meet this worthy challenge.

With my background in art history, I thrive in the humanities. But ask me the



Katie Conroy and Sarah Timm at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences.

difference between a copepod and a dinoflagellate and my palms begin to sweat. Enter Katie Conroy, the museum's Education and Engagement Specialist, whose passion for marine science has strengthened our department's ability to make interdisciplinary connections. This past August, Katie and I participated in Bigelow Laboratory's Bloom Educators Program, which introduces oceanography fieldwork and data analysis to Maine's science teachers. What was for me a crash course in oceanography, was, together, a period of creative brainstorming on how to bring what we learned to the

museum through new interdisciplinary youth programs linking historical and scientific analysis of our waterways.

Museum educators are often seen in their most conspicuous role, leading a school group or public tour. But most museum education work happens behind the scenes. Enter Connie Hartley, Volunteer Program Manager, who weaves a collection of individuals into a community with a shared love of continued learning. With museum growth comes perennial updates and revisions as



The education team took a professional development trip to Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA, with one curatorial stowaway! Left to right: Katie Conroy, Sarah Timm, Collections Specialist Selena McGonnell, Allie Travers, Connie Hartley, and Geiger Museum Learning Intern Grace Tetreault.

we strive to improve how we connect to new audiences. The addition of the Volunteer Program to the Education Department recognizes that learning in all facets is at the core of the volunteer experience. *Editor's Note: Learn more about the work Connie is doing in our Volunteer Program on page 10.*

Understanding that every visitor and student learns differently is fundamental in museum education. Education staff consistently evaluate the audiences we serve well and those we do not. Who could we be serving better? One answer: our youngest audience (and their parents). Enter Allie Travers, Museum Educator, and our team's most recent addition. With Allie's training in Early Childhood Education and experience in preschool and elementary school classrooms, our team has begun developing programming intentionally designed to connect with our youngest audience members. Gallery Story Time, revamped STEAMbox workshops, and the debut of Splash the Sea Monster are all geared to diversify ways young families connect to maritime Maine.

So how would you define a museum educator? What do we do? We teach, we play, we listen, we challenge, we advocate, we debate, we create, we connect. But most importantly, we learn. Curiosity is the mark of a good museum educator. Our job, simply put, is to inspire others to be curious too.



Giving to Maine Maritime Museum

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As of October 4, 2023

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Foresail (\$10,000)

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Bath Savings
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Piper Shores
Shelter Institute, Inc.
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Bixby & Co.
Blue Elephant Events & Catering
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Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott -
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Proforma Marketing Essentials
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Royal River Boatyard & Repair
Sabre Yachts & Back Cove Yachts
Schooner Eastwind
Sisters Gourmet Deli
Springer’s Jewelers
The Landing School
The Dolphin Marina & Restaurant
The Highlands
Thomaston Place Auction Galleries, Inc.
Westlawn Institute of Marine Technology

New and upgraded Business Partners are listed in RED.
Visit MaineMaritimeMuseum.org for a full list of Business Partners.

Spotlight: Caterers

Over the winter, we often start hearing from newly engaged couples excited to start planning their dream wedding. One of the ways we, as a venue, make sure that milestone celebrations are flawlessly executed is recommending vendors we know will deliver on the big day. Today, we’re highlighting a few of our Business Partners offering catering services. **Blue Elephant Events**, **Churchill Catering and Events**, and **Stone Cove Catering** are all Business Partner members at the Rudder level or above, and we work closely with these companies to ensure each event exceeds expectations. Keep them in mind for your next important event! For a full list of our Business Partners, check out the Give section of our website. To read more about special events at the museum, head back to page 2!



The Stone Cove Catering team takes a moment to enjoy the old-timey photo booth while they cater the opening reception for *Women Behind the Lens: The Photography of Emma D. Sewall, Josephine Ginn Banks, and Abbie F. Minott*.

Honor/Memorial Gifts March 15 – October 4, 2023

In Honor of Laura Burns Sarah and Donald Currie	In Memory of Lawrence Pixley Nancy Dytman L.W. Johnson Stephen and Diana McLaughlin
In Honor of Raymond C. Egan Nancy Kollisch and Jeff Pressman	In Memory of Richard Sharood Barbara Sharood
In Honor of The Morse Family Martin and Elizabeth Lakeman	In Memory of Scott L. Shank Hilary Shank-Kuhl and Andrzej Kuhl
In Memory of Amory M. Houghton III Peter and Gail Wilson	In Memory of Sigrid C. Bott Luther Ensminger Jennifer Greaves Curtis Martin
In Memory of Barbara A. Potter Sarah Halpin	In Memory of Stanley R. Goodnow William and Suzanne Bushnell Joanne Gravalese J. David and Susan Haynes Jean C. Semonite
In Memory of Cdr. Robert J. Zemaitis, USN (Ret.) John and Marie Curran David and Louise Gleason Old Fogeys Club	In Memory of Steve Edmondson Judith and Donald Murphy
In Memory of Charles E. Burden, M.D. Kristin Fletcher and Craig Sipe Mabel Gerquest Nancy Wilkes	In Memory of Weston D. Clement Ferdinand and Elizabeth Thun
In Memory of Carol Cusimano Bernier Robert Bernier	
In Memory of Elizabeth B. Noyce The Ralston Gallery	
In Memory of Francis K. Moon Mary Lewis	
In Memory of Holly Hock Dumaine Christophor Dumaine	
In Memory of Jane P. Morse Frances and William Bowen	
In Memory of Joel B. Stevens Matthew Nelson	

Welcome New Members October 6, 2022 – September 27, 2023

Paula Allen Rodney Allen Casey and Camden Andersen Diane and Charles Atwood Ellen Bagley David and Kathrene Banney Jacob Biehl Camden and Casey Black-Ingersoll David Blocher and Helen Warren Sheila Bodine Alison and Michael Bonney Glen and Sharon Boucher Sondra Carlson Louis Carreras Matilda Carreras Barbara Coburn Douglas and Jane Cole David Conroy Derek Daley Amy Davidoff Denise and Richard Devlin Jeannette Douglass Creighton and Elizabeth Drury Marsha Dunn and Philip Francis Chester Dunn-Francis Jean Dvorak Sarah Elkind and Beth Holmberg Stacey Fitzmorin Jean and Robert Foss Carmella Fraser Darcy Fraser Colin and Kaiulani Frolich Kathrene Getz and David Banney Angela Goebel-Bain Destinie and Richard Griffin Ellianna Griffin Aidan Haggerty Abigail and Josh Helfat Chuck and Joan Howard Jane and Douglas Iarussi Chris and Anne Jacobs Sarah Jording Deryl Kitchen Ben Klingle Andrew Korobkin	Linda Lawson Cathy Lichtman Jason and Kari London Jessica MacFarlane Matthew Maclure Denis Marcotte Carol Martin Peter and Catherine Maxson Chris McDonald Ann and William Milliken LeAnne and Lewis Morales James Nawrocki David and Laurie Nutting Stefanie Panetta Andrew and Kimberly Perry Jeffrey and Meg Pierce Amanda Pleau Irene Pouliot Susan Pundt David and Margaret Racicot Eric Rauch Ashley Richards Jr Vivien Russe Frederick and Amy Sargent Sandra and William Savage Brian and Susan Schanning Ann Rebecca Schnaper Mary Schwanke Ken Sluis Katie Smart Catherine Smith and Peter Maxson Shane Snowdon April Spencer James and Ann Stewart James and Stacey Thomas Elizabeth Tracy Robert Vosatka Helen and David Warren Carol Watts Daniel Watts Elin and Matthew Weeman Navah Weeman Katharine Wheeler Karl and Florence Witmer Amos Wolven
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Upcoming Events

STEAMbox Family Workshops

10:30 – 11:30 am, FREE thanks to the support of First Federal Savings

January 20 | How Do Ships Float?

February 10 | Maine Fish and Gyotaku Prints

March 16 | Build a Lobster!

April 13 | Mini Sea Chest

Vacation Week Camp

Students in Grades 2 – 5

February 20 – February 23

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

April 15 – April 19

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Our Favorite Annual Events

May 18

Community Day

July 26

Maine Maritime Museum Annual Gala

September 14

Pints on the Pier

Bravo Zulu



Maine Maritime Museum was awarded not only one of the 2023 Best Places to Work in Maine, we also won best Midcoast Museum in the Times New Record's annual Best Of!

Hope Floats at our Annual Gala

Thank you to everyone who joined us at our annual gala. This was our most successful event yet, raising more than \$300,000 to support everything covered in this issue and beyond. *Photos courtesy of Leslie Swan.*



Dana & Betsy Twombly cutting a rug under the tent.



Raising a glass at Jack & Susan Parker's table.



Anticipating the evening's festivities at Loren & JB Wright's table.



Gala attendees Mike Fear, Katja Pianka, and Jim Brady.



One of our favorite gala traditions, the wine pull! Staffed this year by Betsy Lane, Martha Akeley, and Meredith McGuire.

Upcoming Exhibition



by Catherine Cyr
Associate Curator

A key aspect of Maine Maritime Museum's new mission, as Chris noted in his introduction, is to reframe our consideration of *maritime* to include an emphasis on waterways and their local, regional, and global impact.

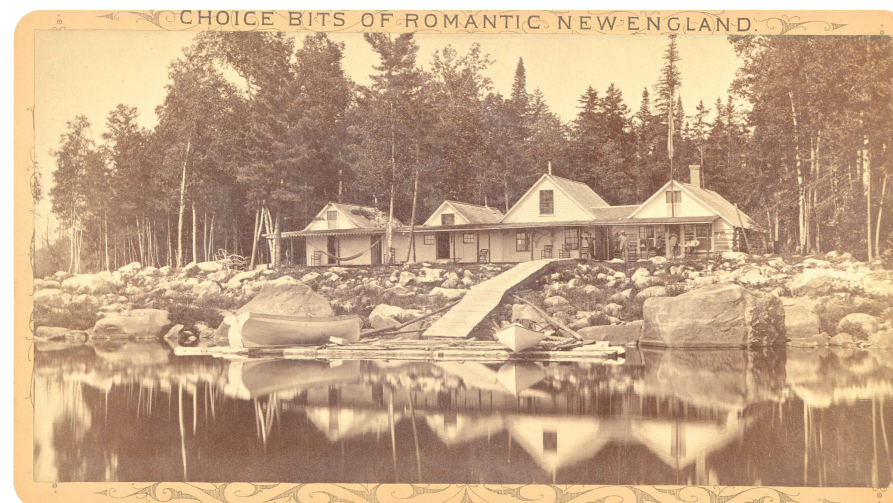
By definition, a waterway is simply any "navigable body of water." While that includes our 3,000 miles of tidal coastline, it also encompasses the staggering number of Maine's inland water sources. Maine alone has nearly 32,000 miles of river and over 600 lakes and ponds, meaning most areas in the state have a direct, often vital, connection to some form of water.

The new exhibition, opening in April, aims to immerse visitors in the long and storied tradition known as "headin' upta camp."

This connection to water has provided innumerable tangible and intangible benefits to individuals and communities across the state for thousands of years. Waterways are and have been a source of food and natural resources, a mode of transportation, sites of labor, and a recreational gateway. It is this latter role—recreation on inland waterways— that we will explore in our upcoming exhibition, *Upta Camp*.

The new exhibition, opening in April, aims to immerse visitors in the long and storied tradition known as "headin' upta camp." While the definition of a camp can vary among locals and visitors alike, a camp is often defined as a remote, rustic structure on or near a lake, pond, river, or stream. "Headin' upta camp" has long been associated with restorative and invigorating properties, with boundless access to fresh air, stunning, undisturbed forest, and water views. Of course, there's also a host of recreational activities to enjoy, from boating to fly fishing to swimming—all of which are tied deeply to the presence of inland waterways.

Upta Camp will guide visitors through the rise of Maine's camp culture from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day. The sporting and leisure camp movement in Maine began in the 1870s in part due to the publication of guidebooks and articles proclaiming the superior sport fishing in Maine, especially in the Rangeley and Moosehead lakes regions. In addition to learning about the broader local and national historical contexts of Maine camps, visitors will be introduced to the logistics of traveling by water to more isolated camps and the iconic material culture associated with camp lifestyles and activities,



Photograph of a sporting camp in the Maine woods, likely in the Rangeley Lakes Region, ca. 1870.



Postcard of Sunset Lodge and Camp on Damariscotta Lake.

including fishing poles, Old Town Canoes, and lots of flannel. To further engage our visitors, the exhibition will also have an immersive cabin setting with hands-on activities for all ages to help replicate the experiences one would find when visiting a camp.

Upta Camp is an exciting next venture for the museum as we look to expand on our recent success of broadening the scope of our exhibitions to share under-told stories of Maine's rich maritime history, while also highlighting collections that have had limited opportunities for public display and interpretation.



Volunteer News



by **Connie Hartley**
Volunteer Program Manager

Volunteers Make Things Happen

This summer, working collaboratively, 16 docents at the Donnell House provided guided tours to over 7,000 visitors from all over to great fanfare. *“Excellent tour & guide, great preservation of history,”* from a guest hailing from Lake Mills, Wisconsin. *“Amazing work restoring this home, tour guide was highly knowledgeable,”* said a visitor from Dover-Foxcroft, Maine. And to celebrate such a great season, we held a tea party! Docents shared their own personal stories of volunteering at the Donnell House and what that means to them. Unlike other



Little to no tea was actually spilled at the party to celebrate our Donnell House docents. Debbie Seybold, Human Resources & Office Assistant, and Mary Schreiber, volunteer, provided many sweet treats. Special thanks to Mary, docent and Volunteer Council Representative, for all the support.

permanent exhibitions at Maine Maritime Museum, the Donnell House provides a window into the domestic sphere of families living and working in the height of wooden shipbuilding, and our docents feel a sense of great pride in sharing this story with visitors. Many of our Donnell House docents have been in their role for six years or more. The passion our volunteers have for the Donnell House is palpable and as a result, this year we were able to recruit three additional docents!

Additional Season Highlights

Bath Iron Works Story: By Land and Sea Tour: 1,474 visitors

Launch Tank Demonstration: 5,087 visitors

86 Percy & Small Shipyard Group Tours were offered to American Cruise Line ship passengers and bus tour groups

Celebrating Volunteers

Our Annual Volunteer Picnic was held on Wednesday, August 16 in Long Reach Hall with nearly 100 volunteers and museum staff in attendance. It was a fun-filled afternoon with Jason Morin, Director of Operations, firing up the grill, and many delicious side dishes contributed by volunteers. But the biggest hit of the day was by far the cornhole competition. The cornhole challenge exceeded the wildest imaginations for all involved. Those who participated had an absolute blast and the sideline cheerleaders raised the roof! Congratulations to “Team VSA” for their victory! It was truly a great day and we’re already dreaming about next year’s festivities.



Team VSA, enjoying the victory of a friendly cornhole competition.

Congratulations Kelly Page, Curator of Collections

Can you tell us a little bit about your new role, and some of your goals as department head?

As the new Curator of Collections, I oversee all the curatorial department's operations. My administrative focus will continue planning for collections management and stewardship. In the simplest terms, this means managing the access to, care of, and information about our collections.

Our object collections are made up of 20,000 items, and only about 10% are on exhibit for the public to see. We have archival collections, which are measured by how much space they take up on shelves. In the Nathan R. Lipfert Research Library, we have about 3,000 linear feet of archival collections. And that's not including over 100,000 images.

Moving forward with strategic planning, we will be taking a closer look at what we have, what we would like to have, and decide perhaps whether there are some things that are overrepresented in our collections. From a long-term perspective, museums are always refining the stories that we tell, which includes examination of our existing collections through new interpretive lenses.

We also will prioritize reinterpretation of the Percy & Small exhibit. The exhibit is now 20 years old, and the shipyard is so central to the museum. We have an opportunity to bring in more people-centric stories to this core asset that is integral to our existence and identity. Looking even further ahead, we are planning for a new core exhibit. The Maritime History of Maine exhibit has been refined here and there over the years, what remains has been on display since 1989 and is ready for an overhaul.

What would you say to people interested in donating to the collection?

One of the challenges communicating a museum's perspective on collecting is that while an item may have significant meaning to an individual family, we might not necessarily have a place for it, even though it may have historical value. Even if we take in something, our exhibits are ideally scheduled 2–5 years out, so acquisitions may not be immediately displayed. Here are a few more takeaways:

- After over sixty years, our collections storage is already near capacity. Our mission and the demands of caring for a sizable collection dictate stringent criteria for accepting new acquisitions, and so we approach each potential collection donation with appreciation, but also with a thoughtful analysis of our current and future needs.
- The museum receives inquiries about research and collections every day, and with a small staff, we have to be careful about managing our time. That is why we recommend making an appointment, so that we can provide the best experience possible for researchers.



- And, with all the above in mind, unless we've already agreed to take something, please do not drop off items! We truly depend on our community to help us take care of our extensive collection and make sure we have the resources to preserve it for future generations.
- The best way to support our collections is in fact to make a financial contribution, to help with the operational costs of caring for, managing, and sharing collections.

Can you reflect on some accomplishments you've had over the last 17 years?

One of my proudest moments here at the museum was securing a large federal grant to do some really important behind-the-scenes work. The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Museums for America grant allows us to document our largest collection storage room, which has the biggest cross-section of subject areas and object types. There are fewer funding opportunities that directly support this type of work, so they are very competitive, and it is an honor to receive such funding.

And there will be some changes to your team, as well?

Yes! Catherine Cyr, who joined us a little over a year ago as Exhibition Coordinator, will be expanding her role to more general curatorial support as Associate Curator. She will still curate exhibits, but it will be more of a group effort. We are also welcoming Luke Gates-Milardo back to the museum. He is taking on a new role of Exhibit Designer. He will be leading the graphic design of our exhibits, coordinating with visiting artists or other exhibit partners, and even curating some exhibits himself. As our former museum educator, he is already very familiar with our collections and has even worked on a few exhibits.

Selena McGonnell, who has been working on the IMLS documentation project, will be taking on the role of Registrar, becoming more involved with acquisitions paperwork, tracking items on exhibit, and collections inventory.

Since starting here in 2006, I've had my hands in all departmental operations, from accessions and deaccessions to gallery installs to applying for grants. But there have not been four permanent positions in the curatorial department since 2009. I'm thrilled to be leading a team with this capacity. I am very vested in this place after being here for so long, and want to do everything I can to help make this institution a more engaging and accessible place.

Our Store



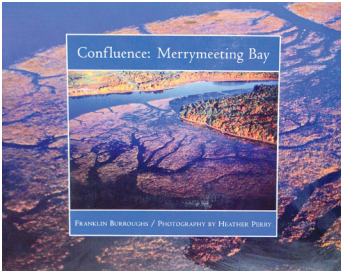
by **Amanda Pleau**
Marketing & Communications Manager

Every time I stop by the store, our Store Manager Shana Jaques has added more items to surprise and delight our visitors. With Shana’s help, I thought we could showcase a few of our favorite items. Shopping in our store isn’t just a great way to support our mission, we also have plenty of parking, excellent customer service, and members receive 10% off. Plus, each item here is also available in our online store so wherever you’re reading this, our store can come to you.



Maine Maritime Museum Corded Crewneck is one of our most popular new apparel items. It looks rough, like sun-washed and distressed boards, but the 100% cotton corduroy fabric is so soft!

Sarah Timm Director of Education, recommends **Confluence: Merrymeeting Bay** by Frank Burroughs.



This fantastic and accessible read about the environmental history of Merrymeeting Bay—an ecosystem that only exists in in three other places on earth!



Made from a 50/50 cashmere and silk blend, **Donnell House Scarves** highlight details from the 19th century shipyard owner’s house located here on campus. Learn more about our docents on page 10.



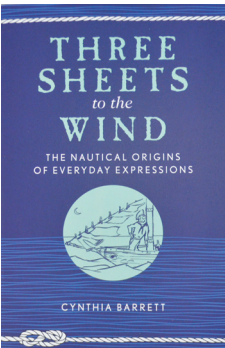
“I Run a Tight Shipwreck” insulated mug.
Need we say more?

Did you love our gala decor? The same glass **Japanese fishing floats** are now available in our store! Great for trimming the tree or adding a touch of nautical whimsy to your home or office, available in many sizes and colors.



This is a unique gift for a true lighthouse lover. **Sixty-four Maine lighthouses** are represented on removeable tiles.

Three Sheets to the Wind: The Nautical Origins of Everyday Expressions is a Maine Maritime Museum bestseller. The perfect companion for etymology lovers, sailors, factophiles, and the conversationally curious.



Can you help us find our dream truck?

Our 2010 Dodge 2500 has been put to great use but is unfortunately nearing the end. We utilize this vehicle on a nearly daily basis for plowing, pulling trailers of logs for the Boatshop, picking up large donations, and more. The museum’s truck is an essential piece of equipment that makes everything we do here possible.

Ideally, we’re looking for a single cab, four-wheel drive, one-ton truck, with a 9 ft plow attachment. A dump bed would be ideal, but a flat or rack body would also be great. We are hoping to find a new truck, but a lightly used one with very low miles and no mechanical issues would also meet our needs. Please send leads to Jason Morin, Director of Operations, at morin@maritimeme.org.

Join or Renew Your Membership online or complete and mail this form.

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Please charge my membership on ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ VISA ☐ DISCOVER ☐ AMEX

CARD NUMBER

EXP. DATE & CVV

CARDHOLDER’S SIGNATURE

I have also enclosed \$_____ as a contribution to help support the museum

Please make check payable to Maine Maritime Museum and return to: 243 Washington Street, Bath, ME 04530
Dues and other contributions are tax deductible as provided by law.